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THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

SOME ORIGINAL DECORATIONS.

IT is refreshing to find a person who does not follow Mrs. Grundy in everything, and who dares to reject a conventional sort of decoration if he doesn't like it. The wall paper fetish has been worshipped unremittingly for many years, but adventurous spirits have found that agreeable effects may be produced with tapestries, paint, polished wood, lincrusta and even tinted plaster. The boudoir of Mme. Juliette Adam, in Paris, is decorated in Japanese fashion, with dull red and yellow hangings to cover the walls, and a dado of orange silk embroidered with figures of animals. A room in Newport is dressed in blue, the walls being covered with pale cartridge paper of that tint with black moldings inclosing a simple blue and white frieze and serving as picture rods. Cream white paper covers the ceiling, but is traced with a quiet pattern in blue and brown, an oriental rug fills the middle floor space, and portieres of light blue flannel, banded with blue plush, hang at the doors, the windows and the bay, where stands a potted palm. Blue figures in the upholstery; the hearth tiles are blue, white and brown, and a blue blush lambrequin hangs from the mantel. A well known artist in New York has finished off his studio in unique fashion with hangings of Japanese cotton, pale gray, patterned in gold, and set off with curios, some suspended against the wall and some standing on the shelves of cabinets and brackets. The hangings are lightly tacked up and fall in shallow folds. A frieze has been made of bagging, against which are nailed gilded and silvered shells, and the portieres are of turcoman, of turquoise blue color, with peacock feathers fastened to them. Just under the frieze is carried a line of rope net, which with corks, blocks, models of boats and sea pictures in the room carries out a breezy marine suggestion. But the house of a New Jersey editor displays daring, inasmuch as the golden brown paper that covers the walls of his best room is nothing more nor less than market wrapping paper, and costs next to nothing a ton. He does not tell people where he got it, or what it cost, so every one admires its soft brilliancy, and the agreeable facility with which picture frames merge into it, and the way the painted frieze and yellow carpet suit with it. Were some people to know that their steaks are sent home in the same kind of paper, the room would never look beautiful to them again.

COMBINATION furniture, the making one piece assume different forms and answer various purposes, is by no means new; but these modern combinations are primarily distinguished by their utility, whereas in former times merely fanciful changes, having in view the surprise of the beholder, as exhibit of ingenuity, were chiefly aimed at. Thus the sitting down on a seat on an ottoman would evoke the play of a fountain within a room, or the laying down on a couch cause musical strains to rise from within. The designing mechanical ingenuity of the present day aims, in the main, at economizing space in *articles utiles*. The footboard of a bed is made to afford a desk that will not protrude when not in use; what appears to be simply an elegant pair of drawers may resolve itself into a cabinet, a settee, and display various compartments for books and papers; a large looking glass is but the frontage to a bed of ample proportions, or hides a wardrobe recess; and a business desk, with its manifold arrangements, affords facilities for the dispatch of business, in pigeon holes, drawers and recesses that would formerly have

required two or more articles of furniture, and without the same conveniences of ready reference; a pedestal for a lamp or vase is made also the support of a series of revolving frames containing paintings and engravings, standing out and lapping on each other, so that fifty can be brought within an inconsiderable space. Our own pages afford from time to time ample illustrations of what is being done in this line. There are houses, as our readers are aware, who devote their energies to one or two combination specialties, specialties which are constantly studied with reference to improvements, the result being comparative perfection in cabinet and mechanical details.

AN aquarium as a mural ornament is a wholly new device. It may be either suspended from hooks in the wall or supported by carved brackets. The zinc case is enclosed in a massive frame, with broad borders projecting outward at sharp angles, an oblong beveled looking glass let into each side, the rest covered with velvet plush, or faced with lincrusta or compo material bearing suitable designs in low relief, or gilded, bronzed, or touched with metallic colors. This aquarium groups well with paintings, and from its position admirably displays its contents. The tank can be lifted out of the framework when required.

